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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 003872

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [PGOV](#) [PL](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: POLISH APPROACH TO NOVEMBER 21 EU GAERC

REF: STATE 208899

Classified By: Political Counselor Mary Curtin, reasons 1.4b,d

[11](#). (SBU) Post delivered reftel demarche upon receipt and reviewed with Polish MFA Director CFSP Beata Kolecka November

[18](#). Kolecka provided the following outline of the Polish government's approach to the November 21 GAERC.

[12](#). (C) Defense Issues: Poland is in full accord with our position and will continue to urge close cooperation between the European Defense Agency and the U.S., and between the EU and NATO on the Headline Goal 2010, civilian capabilities, and civil-military planning.

[13](#). (C) Iraq and MEPP: Kolecka indicated complete agreement with our points on Iraq, and observed that a decision on extension of the Polish deployment in Iraq should be made soon by the new government, in consultation with us and the Iraqis. She reported that Poland generally shares our assessment of the Middle East Peace Process, and welcomed the recent agreement opening the Rafah crossing. Kolecka stated that Poland would like to participate in an EU monitoring mission, but allowed that it is not yet clear whether enough qualified Polish monitors will be available after staffing a similar mission in Moldova. Freedom of movement for Palestinians in East Jerusalem remains a concern of many EU states, she noted, suggesting that the EU may propose new measures to pressure the Israeli government to address this issue.

[14](#). (C) Ukraine: A brief discussion of Ukraine is expected for the November 21 GAERC, mostly in reference to the upcoming EU-Ukraine summit. Kolecka explained that the EU intends to use the December 1 summit to send a positive signal to the Ukrainian people and reinforce support for the Ukrainian government's pro-European policies. She noted that the EU granted Ukraine market economy status, but acknowledged that Ukraine is unlikely to meet conditions for WTO entry in the near future, and certainly not by the Hong Kong ministerial. Regarding Ukraine's engagement with Belarus, Kolecka agreed that high-level contacts may be counterproductive, remarking that Poland had rejected Ukrainian proposals to join in discussions with Lukashenko, but suggested that this may be a "learning process" for the Ukrainians.

[15](#). (C) Bosnia and Kosovo: Poland is delighted that Bosnia has made enough progress to allow for SAA negotiations to begin as we mark the tenth anniversary of the Dayton accords, Kolecka said, while observing that the EU must continue to assist Bosnian authorities in addressing their many institutional weaknesses. She noted that, although Poland has backed the Czech candidate to succeed Ashdown, the German candidate must be seen as the front-runner. Poland's position on Kosovo tracks closely with our points, Kolecka reported, but explained that Kosovo will not be discussed at the upcoming GAERC.

[16](#). (C) Syria: Kolecka stated that Poland agrees entirely with the U.S. approach on Syria, which is not currently on the GAERC agenda. Poland has no plans to meet with the Syrian delegation at the Barcelona Process summit, she said.

[17](#). (C) WTO: Poland's position, supporting the European Commission's October 28 offer, has not changed, Kolecka reported. At this point, she said, it is difficult to foresee a breakthrough in advance of Hong Kong and we must begin to look toward drawing up an agenda of priorities for next year to ensure that the process does not become completely stalled.

HILLAS